Clandestine Activities Since 1947

Colby Briefs Senate Inquiry

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Central Intelligence Agency Director William E. Colby gave the Senate committee on intelligence operations a secret briefing yesterday on the CIA's cladestine activities since its inception in 1947.

Testifying under oath, Colby spent nearly two hours before the committee in the windowless, eavesdropproof chambers of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy at the Capitol. He decline to comment on leaving.

Chairman Frank Church (D-Idaho) said the CIA director will be called back next week for questioning on the operations, which included disclosures concerning alleged assassination attempts and schemes.

Colby also met privately yesterday morning with Church and Sen. John G. Tower (R-Tex.) to propose withholding from the full committee some details that the CIA considers especially sensitive.

"We made it plain that all the Senators on this committee hold equal rank and all are entitled to equal information," Church told reporters. He said the 10-member committee might be willing not to press for certain information has yet to make any such decion a case-by-case basis, but sions.

Asked what might happen if Colby simply refused to share some secrets with the full committee, Church said he hoped "it doesn't come to that."

As the committee chairman, Church said he had already been made privy to the operations Colby testified about, but the senator avoided an answer when asked if he had heard anything that would "shock the public."

Accompanied by four aides, some carrying chart-sized cases, the CIA director brought some requested documentary materials with him for the hearing. Church said these will be turned over to the committee staff today.

Colby's testimony was the first to be presented to the committee under oath. Church said it amounted to an "overview" of current and past covert operations and left no time for questioning. Public hearings in the Senate investigation of the CIA and other government intelligence agencies are not expected to start until July.